Health Information Technology Advisory Commission (HITAC)
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2009

Location

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association.
4200 Innslake Drive, Suite 203,
Glen Allen, Virginia

Attendees:

Commission Members: Marilyn Tavenner (Chair), John McDonald (Vice-Chair), Karen Jackson (Vice-Chair - phone), Chris Bailey, Eric Barber, Daniel Barchi (phone), Geoffrey Brown, Donald Combs (phone), Laura Dickerson, Patrick Finnerty, Michael Matthews, Deborah Oswalt, Cathy Pumphrey, Terri Ripley, Marshall Ruffin, David Selig, Anna Slomovic (phone)

Commission Members Absent: Steve Harms, William Hazel, Liesa Jenkins, Aryana Khalid, Susan Motley, Robert Wah

Agenda Items:
I.	Introductions of Members, Staff, and Public	Marilyn Tavenner
II.	Moving Forward in Post-Election Times	Marilyn Tavenner
III.	Report on Health Information Extension Program	Chris Bailey
IV.	Report on Health Information Exchange Project	Michael Matthews
V.	Discussion of Next Steps	HITAC

General Discussion:

Meeting called to order: 9:10 AM.

I. Introductions of Members, Staff, and Public (Marilyn Tavenner)
- All members of the Commission that were present were sworn in by Bernie Henderson, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.

II. Moving Forward in Post-Election Times (Marilyn Tavenner)

- Marilyn Tavenner stated that Executive Order 95 (2009) that created this Commission would be in effect when the new Governor takes office unless he rescinds the order.
- The Governors transition team has already discussed this Commissions work

III. Report on Health Information Extension Program (Chris Bailey)

- Chris Bailey chaired the workgroup that produced the funding application for the Health Information Technology Extension Program.
- The Extension Center will plan and implement the outreach, education, and technical assistance programs necessary to meet the objective of assisting providers in its geographic service area to improve the quality and value of care they furnish by attaining meaningful use criteria as established by the Secretary.
- A preliminary funding application was required. Upon review, Virginia was requested to submit a full application. Successful full applicants will result in award of four-year cooperative agreements.
- The Virginia Health Quality Center (VHQC) in partnership with Center for Innovative Technology will be the lead organization.
- The Extension Center must create a sustainable business plan in the first two years. In years three of four of the funding period, 90% of costs must be borne by the recipient organization.

IV. Report on Health Information Exchange Project (Michael Matthews)

- Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) made available $564 million between 56 states and territories for the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) program.
- The allocation to each state was based on demographics such as population, number of physicians, number of hospitals, underserved areas, etc… Virginia was allocated $11.6 million over a four year period of time.
- Virginia chose to pursue a 6 to 8 month planning period prior to implementation. The state will receive the funds on January 16, 2010.
- Virginia must submit a plan to ONC that requires demonstrated progress across five essential domains: governance, finance, technical infrastructure, business and technical operations, legal / policy. It was suggested and agreed that seven working subgroups would be established, five around the essential domains and two additional ones for evaluation / metrics and communications.

- These workgroups will consist of commission members and other subject matter experts as needed.
- The funding application required states to leverage current infrastructure. Virginia has two HIEs that participated in the National Health Information Network (NHIN). Their experience will be required as we move to the planning process.
- Many ARRA funded initiatives require the states to undertake an environmental scan of health information technology proliferation in the state. This requirement applies to the Broadband Extension for Telemedicine Efforts, CMS' requirement on DMAS for enhanced reimbursement for providers, and for both the health information technology extension program and the health information exchange program. The groups will work together to combine efforts.
- A graphic was presented in order to conceptualize the partners in the formation of a state HIE. The commission suggested the addition of other health provider partners including long term care and behavioral health. It was also suggested that both physicians and hospitals are involved with Meaningful Use, Electronic Health Records and therefore should be represented together in the graphic.
- The Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Marshall Ruffin will be key in making recommendations during the planning phase. A discussion of the adherence to interoperability standards ensued.
- Secretary Tavenner referred all the Commission members to the draft letter of the Commonwealth's support to David Blumenthal, National Coordinator ONC and Aneesh Chopra, National CTO. The letter , if endorsed by this commission, is expected to go out this week.

V. **Report from the Office of Health IT** (Kim Barnes)

- HIE funds will be administered through VDH, including funds to add additional office resources as needed by the Commission.
- Progress has been made on furthering the advance healthcare directive registry. Following the PPEA guidelines, a vendor has been chosen to move from the conceptual phase to the detail phase. A partnership of Unival and Microsoft offered to provide this service to the Commonwealth at no charge to citizens and also offering to assume 100% of the business risk.
- The Commission was asked to review two logos that were offered to the HIE project at no creative cost. A HIE name of "Connect Virginia" was suggested. Debate ensued concerning the adoption

of such a logo and this decision is to be deferred until further in the planning process. It was clarified that CHIMES was a title that was submitted for the grant proposal only and any project name could be discussed.

- Ring binders were provided to the commission members to store Commission information as the project moves on.

- The website for the project, as well as other Virginia Health IT projects is www.hits.virginia.gov

VI. Discussion of Next Steps   (Secretary Tavenner)

- Motion to adopt the draft letter was made by Deborah Oswalt and approved.
- Chris Bailey requested the commission defer adopting a name and logo.
- Next meeting date and time will be **December 17, 2009 – 2 to 4 PM**. Location to be determined.
- This meeting will be in conjunction with the Health Information Standards Advisory Committee.
- Request to add the Environmental Scan approach as an agenda item to the next meeting, along with a study of other state's efforts.
- Michael Mathews mentioned an update from the NHIN as well would be helpful from a Federal perspective.

Meeting adjourned: 10:13 AM.